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KENJI.
I SAID I DELIVERED YOUR CLOTHING
TO THE FUKUOKA HAWK HOTEL.
OH,
OKAY,
THANK YOU.
SFX: KACHI KACHI TATAN TAN
I'LL LEAVE YOUR LAUNDRY HERE.
AH,
OKAY.
SFX: TAN... KATA KATA
THANKS.
I'LL PUT IT AWAY LATER ...

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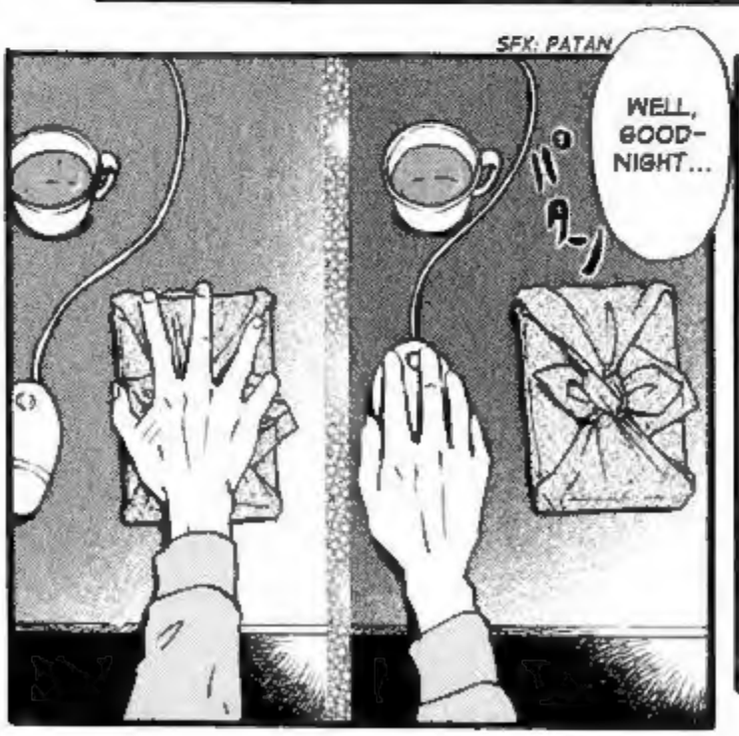
I SEE.
WELL, THE BATH IS FREE, SO GO ON IN.
MOM AND DAD ARE GOING TO SLEEP NOW.
AH.
OKAY.
HM...
AT 10, I THINK...
WHAT TIME ARE YOU LEAVING TOMOR-ROW?


SFX: PATAN
WELL, GOOD-NIGHT...

AND HERE,
YOUR USUAL.

SFX: BUH BUH BUH.... (MUMBLING) KACHI KACHI (CLICK CLICK) TATAN

manoapend

IT'S BECAUSE HE WON THE FIRST GAME.
—HE PROBABLY HAS A LITTLE EXTRA ENERGY.
—BUT
YOU'D THINK THAT ONCE HE'S COME THIS FAR
THE BEST THING HE COULD DO WOULD BE TO REST UP FOR THE MATCH...
HE'S QUITE SERIOUS.
OR MAYBE OBSTI-NATE...
SINCE HE WAS A KID,
WHEN IT CAME TO SHOGI, HE NEVER LISTENS.
CAN YOU BLAME HIM, DAD?
HE ONLY MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE HE HAD THAT STUBBORN-NESS.
Mhmm
...
NOW
ALL WE CAN DO
IS WATCH OVER HIM...

—NOW THEN, WE'LL BE COMMENCING WITH THE SEMI-FINALS.
DOBASHI-KUN IS SENTE AND SOUYA-KUN IS GOTE.
WHILE I WAS SITTING ON THE SIDELINES,
IT MADE ME WANT TO RUN AWAY
WAA
WAA
AND WHENEVER KENJI ENDED UP AGAINST HIM, HE ALWAYS ENDED UP WITH 'AH... THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE!!'
—WHENEVER KENJI WON TO GET TO THE LATER ROUNDS OF A TOURNAMENT SOUYA-KUN WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE.
SOUYA-KUN REAAALLY HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARY EVEN SINCE THOSE DAYS.
HOW MANY TIMES DOES THIS MAKE IT THAT HE'S PLAYED SOUYA-KUN IN MEIJIN CHAMPIONSHIPS?
—I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYMORE.
EVEN SINCE HE WAS A BOY, THAT SOUYA-KUN DIDN'T GIVE UP MANY WINS...

KENJI IS STILL FIGHTING THAT SAME OPPONENT.
AND EVEN NOW,
ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH LIKE THIS...
AS A FAMILY
IT'S SO PITIFUL...

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SFX: POCHI KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA POCHI
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How... to grow... hair fast...
AND SHE SEARCHED FOR THINGS LIKE 'HOW TO GROW HAIR FAST'...
THIS AFTERNOON, SHE SEEMED TO PRETEND I COULDN'T SEE HER AND WENT ON THE COMPUTER
SO,
HOW IS HINA DOING?
Huhu.

If you don't come out, Kiriyama-kun is gonna be late, too!
Heey!
Hina~!
Kiriyama-kun is here to pick you up!
THE MORNING OF THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS FASCINATING.
KIRIYAMA-KUN CAME BY TO PICK HER UP.

Hinaa!
Oh, just accept how your hair looks, come on out!!
I-I-I know I look like a zashiki-warashi, don't I?!
It-It looks like a joke, doesn't it?!
It... It's really weird, right? It's so messed up...
UWAaa~N
HA WA WA...
JIIIIIIIIHHH...

SFX: JIIIIIIIIHHH... (STAARE)

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Hm.
I like it.
Huh?
Hm.
Yeah, it's good.
Really good.
SFX: GYUH...
Yeah, it's pretty nice!!
Really nice!!
Huh?
...Um
It totally suits you!!
Uh
Um, thank ...
you.
Rei-chan...?
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HE WENT ABOVE MY EXPECTATIONS WITHOUT ME SENDING THAT EMAIL.
I HAVE TO HAND IT TO KIRIYAMA-KUN,
I'm getting embarrassed
I really think it's good!!
I get it already!
I like it.
... No, it's good!
Mhm mhm
SO I THOUGHT ABOUT EMAILING KIRIYAMA-KUN 'PLEASE DON'T MAKE FUN OF HER, TRY TO MAKE HER FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT.' BUT...
HINA WAS REALLY NERVOUS ABOUT HOW SHE LOOKED,
Please, that's enoooough
SFX: GIKU SHAKU...
SFX: DON DON DONYORI (HEAVY)
SO WE MAY HAVE TEASED HER A BIT MUCH...
—WELL, WE ACTUALLY THOUGHT HINA LOOKED REALLY CUTE
THAT YOUNG ANIMAL!!
OH, THAT'S PRETTY GOOD...
RECONSIDERING
Holding back was really tough...
HOHOH!~
—SO WHAT ABOUT KIRIY-AMA-KUN?
—WHAT WITH ALL THAT WATCHING HER STUDY... AND COMING TO SEE HER...
IS HE IN LOVE WITH HINA OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
Do you think?
SFX: SOWA SOWA... (NERVOUS)

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SFX KOKKURI (NOD)
MHM
I THINK HE LOVES HER.
コックリ
AH, DECISIVE ANSWER.
OH, SO BITTER-SWEET.
BUT
HE LOVES ME, TOO.
— BUT
HE ALSO REALLY LOVES MOMO
SHE'S A REAL APPLE OF HIS EYE.
H-
HUH ?!
What in the world ?

AT THIS POINT, TO GO BACK TO SOMETHING FRAGILE LIKE 'ROMANTIC LOVE'
IN A SINGLE BOUND, IT LOOKS LIKE HE MADE IT ALL THE WAY THERE.
WOULD BE A NEAR-IMPOSSIBLE TASK...

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SFX: ZUSHIIIN
Happy 70th Birthday
TO DO!
All right!! Now we should be able to make Toudou-sama's birthday tonight! ☆
I wonder if he'll like it?
Y-you can do portrait carving ...?
Y-YOU'VE REALLY IMPROVED, AKARI...
Such a resemblance
Check This
HEEW
— This niece right here
is exceeding some expectations of her own—
realized the aunt, Misaki (Age 52).
Oh my! ☆ I'm so happy!!
That much?
YEAH... ACTUALLY
I THINK IT'LL BRING HIM TO TEARS...
(*FOR A FEW REASONS)
Chapter 91 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 2

REGARDING SHOGI PLAYERS THAT ARE HARD TO DEAL WITH

There are shogi players bursting with all sorts of different personalities in 3-Gatsu no Lion. But the real world of shogi is full of eccentrics, so I don't think anyone would be all that surprised.

Among the characters is Namerikawa 7-dan. Honestly, he was pretty amazing. His impact was sky high. And he the quotes about him were great. 'Him standing there is unlucky', 'If he sits, it's creepy', 'The sight of him walking is the the god of plague'. I was holding my stomach I was laughing so hard reading that. But then when you turn the page you learn he's a mortician. His mind is unsteady. But I was taken aback when I read the two pages of his interview. It was quite deep. "I don't know anything that makes me feel more 'alive' than this." That quote is actually something I feel all the time, so it really hit home with me.

Of course, there aren't any shogi players like this in real life. This doesn't really matter, but I heard Namekawa 8-dan mumbling about how his name was similar to Namerikawa's. I think it goes without saying that this character is a far cry from Namekawa 7-dan.

Now then, shogi is a match between two human beings, so naturally there are some players that will just have a poor affinity for certain others..... This is a delicate subject however, so even when players have had a few drinks together, this hardly ever gets talked about. From my perspective, players' perception of this is like the power of language. There's a sense that if you say something too carelessly, you can end up having bad chemistry with someone.

Of course, there are some I have bad chemistry with. But for the reason I listed above, I'm not going to name any specific names.

When you realize there is a player you just have bad chemistry with, the important thing is to be very careful that you know if it's a matter of incompatibility, or that you just list to them because you were the weaker player. Mistaking this is simple stupidity, honestly.

So don't worry about getting along with someone or not, whoever you're up against, keep presence of mind..... Unfortunately that's a pretty difficult thing to do.

◀ Is there no player that's doesn't have bad chemistry with Namerikawa?!

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3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 9

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